

# Tips On What To Look For:

**Paint** — Is the color consistent with what the manufacturer used?

**3rd Brake Light** — Does the vehicle contain a manufacturer-installed third brake light, but have a VIN indicating a year prior to 1986?

**Headlights** — If it is a GM model, does it have a composite headlight system and VIN prior to 1987?

**Certification Sticker** — Does the vehicle display a Federal Government Certification Sticker, and do the numbers match those displayed on the dash?

**Rivets** — Are rivets the correct type: rosette for American vehicles, round-head for foreign vehicles?

**VIN Plate** — Is it present, scratched, or glued? Is it polished and does it fit the type of vehicle?

**EPA Sticker** — Is it present and does the year match the VIN?

**Steering Column** — Is it a different color than the interior, and is it aligned properly?

**Ignition Switch** — Is the butterfly part missing?

**Keys** — Does driver have only keys for ignition (not trunk or glovebox)?

**Seat Belts** — Are dates within tolerance?

**Interior** — Do the colors match?

**Glass** — Is there evidence of broken or missing glass?

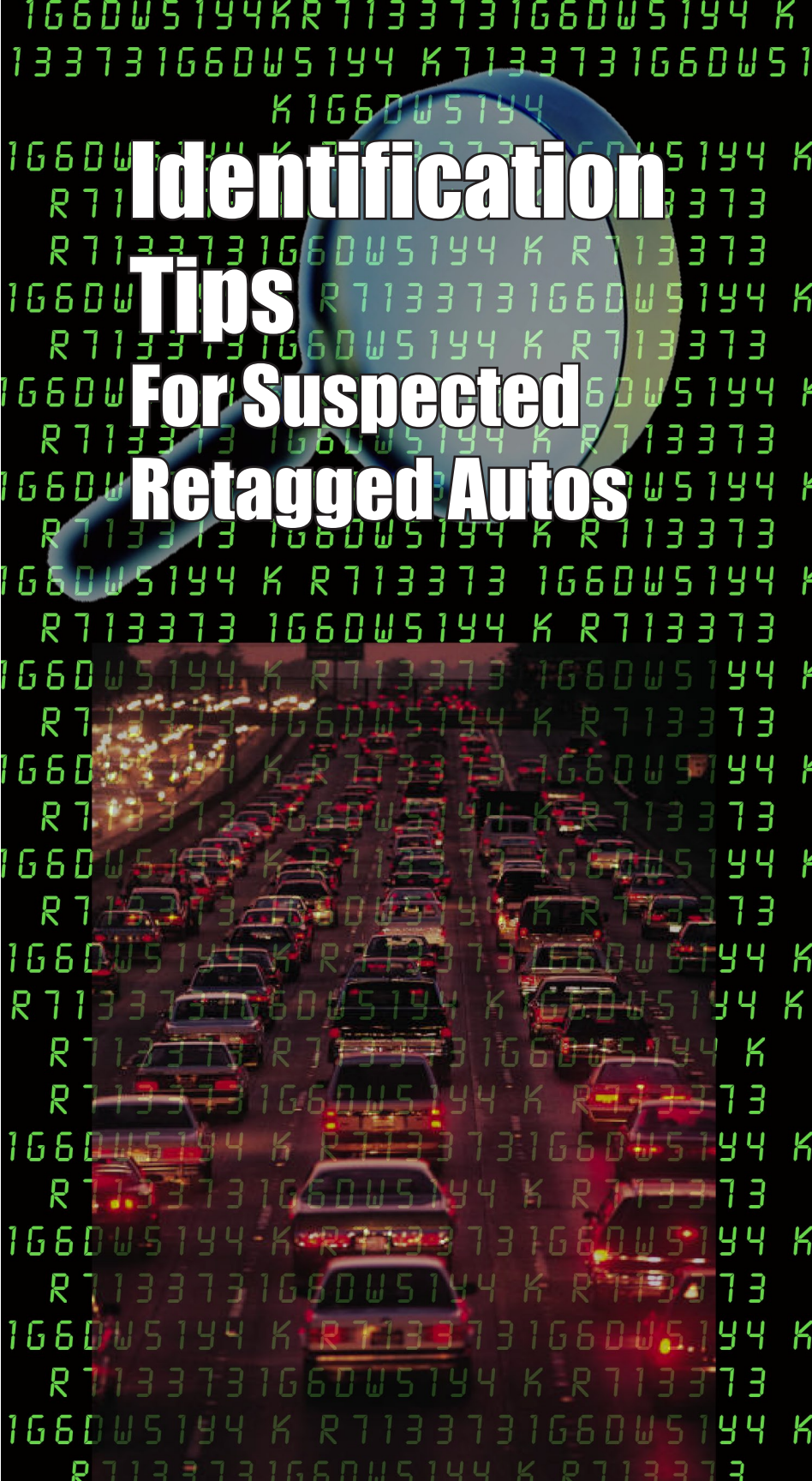
**Labels** — The dealership labels: Are decals on the rear of the vehicle missing, painted over, or scratched off?

**Trunk Lock** — Is the trunk lock missing, making it necessary to use a screwdriver?

\* On four-wheel drive General Motor pickups and multi-purpose vehicles, the letter "K" must appear as the second digit of the VIN before 1981, and the fifth digit afterward. Otherwise, the vehicle is a two-wheel drive unit.

## 3rd Brake Light

GENERAL MOTORS	YEAR ADDED
pickup trucks	1994
minivans	1994
full size vans	1994
passenger cars	1986
CHRYSLER	YEAR ADDED
pickup trucks	1994
minivans	1991
full size vans	1993
passenger cars	1986
FORD	YEAR ADDED
pickup trucks	1994
minivans	1993
full size vans	1992
passenger cars	1986



# Vehicle Identification Number By Vehicle And Year

- **For the 1981 and newer** standardized 17-digit VIN, the 10th digit indicates year.

**Example: 1G6DW51Y4 K R713373**  
**K=1989**

The table below indicates letters and numbers used, and the model year they represent.

A—1980 not a 17-digit VIN	M—1991	2—2002
B—1981	N—1992	3—2003
C—1982	P—1993	4—2004
D—1983	R—1994	5—2005
E—1984	S—1995	6—2006
F—1985	T—1996	7—2007
G—1986	V—1997	8—2008
H—1987	W—1998	9—2009
J—1988	X—1999	A—2010
K—1989	Y—2000	B—2011
L—1990	1—2001	C—2012

\* The letters “I”, “O”, and “Q” are never used in a 17-digit VIN. Note: Some trailer manufacturers will use the letter “I”, although they should not.

\* Foreign vehicles and motorcycles will meet VIN standardization if they were made to be sold in this country. If they were not made to be properly imported (gray market vehicle), they may have a non-conforming 17-digit VIN. Most notable are some Mercedes, and recently, Dodge pickups from Mexico.

- **Prior to 1981** there was no standardization on VINs. The manufacturers used the VIN they wanted, and used different positions in the VIN to denote model year.

**Ford/Lincoln/Mercury passenger cars older than 1981** have an 11-digit VIN. The first digit indicates the year. On some models there is a letter “F” in script both before and after the VIN. It is not part of the VIN.

**Example: 8 F05H125662**  
**8 = 1968 OR 1978 model**

**Ford light-duty trucks, 1967-1978:** Our resources skip the 1979 and 1980 model years. The year is determined by the last six digits of the VIN.

**Example: F10YK S601122**  
**This indicates a 1974 model.**

A00000 to B49999 —1967
C00000 to D819999 —1968
D82000 to G29999 — 1969
G300000 - J69999 —1970*
J70000 - M29000 — 1971
M4000 - P80999 —1972
Q00000 to S55000 —1973
S60000 to V00000 — 1974
V2000 - X59999 — 1975
A00000 to D05000 —1976
O00000 to Z00000 — 1977
AA000 - ZK000 —1978

\* “H” plant-ending number went to H99999 in 1970, and began 1971 production with K00000.

**General Motors and Chrysler Corporation vehicles older than 1981 have a 13-digit VIN.** The sixth digit indicates the year.

**Example: 1N69L 8 S112315**  
**8 = 1978 model**

## For More Information

For older vehicles, and those not listed, call NICB. The NICB has NATB/NICB vehicle manuals dating back to the 1950’s. The Missouri State Highway Patrol’s Communications Division has a computer program called VIN Assist for 1981 and newer, 17-digit VINs, which will indicated if the VIN is valid. It will identify the make, model, year, engine, and other vehicle information.

## Important Numbers

Missouri State Highway Patrol	
Motor Vehicle Bureau	573.751.9336.
General Headquarters	573.751.3313
Dept. of Revenue, Criminal Investigation Bureau	
Jefferson City	573.751.4689
St. Louis	314.877.0393
Kansas City	816.889.2930
National Insurance Crime Bureau	
St. Louis	314.574.7910
Kansas City	847.875.4343